

IOWA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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To: Care of Animals in Commercial Enterprises Legislative Interim Study
Committee

Regulation of Animal Care in Commercial Enterprises

We would like to thank the study committee for allowing us to share our views on the care of animals in commercial enterprises.

The IVMA represents 1510 veterinarians, including 83% of the licensed veterinarians in the state of Iowa. We share your concern and desire for the best care for animals. Our question is, does this bill help achieve that goal.

At this point our position remains neutral on proposed legislation (HF 486) that we have reviewed on animal care by commercial enterprises for the following reasons:

1. We feel there needs to be a clear definition regarding the rules state inspectors would follow if a complaint against a federally certified facility were to be filed. Would inspectors follow state or federal guidelines? Are there any conflicts or major differences between these guidelines?
2. Will there be continued funding and manpower to adequately enforce these policies?
3. We would like to see complaints made through written affidavits submitted by individuals who have first hand knowledge of a potential violation rather than through hear say or second hand information.
4. We feel there should be written guidelines in place for inspectors if there is a site violation.
 - a. Would there be a site and fine policy?
 - b. Would there be a written warning with a time line for corrective measures to be taken, and if so, would the state inspector come back for a second inspection?
 - c. Would state inspectors notify federal inspectors before answering a complaint on a certified facility and would they coordinate their efforts to resolve the issue?

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our views on this important legislation. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have for us.

Respectfully submitted,

David Whitney DVM
President IVMA

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Vice President IVMA